

The petition of James T. Dwyer, Springfield, Illinois, United States, North America, asking, on behalf of the Irish people, that the Constitutional Convention now convened at Annapolis, for the amendment of the present Constitution of the State of Maryland, make the official recognition of "*The National Flag and the National Seal*" of the kingdom of Ireland, as known and acknowledged by contemporary nations previous to the year 1800, part of the proceedings of its body, by inserting in the amended Constitution, general or special provisions causing such recognition, and also declaring *belligerent rights* to the Irish people and for other purposes :

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS,

May 25, 1867.

*To the President and members of the Constitutional Convention convened at Annapolis for the amendment of the present Constitution of the State of Maryland :*

Your petitioner would respectfully represent to your Honorable Body that he is a native of Ireland and a citizen of the United States and of the State of Illinois, that he owes no allegiance and never did owe any but compulsory allegiance, to the Crown of Great Britain, acting through the unlawful dictation of the Imperial Parliament. On the contrary he claims that the so-called Union between England and Scotland, and Ireland, dating from the year 1800, having transferred by violence, fraud and corruption to English soil, without any sanction or authority from the Irish people, the whole of their legislative rights, as existing up to that period, and that in defiance not only of the local laws and Constitution of Ireland, but also in direct violation of the well settled "law of nations," which substantially declares :

"That no voluntary transfer from one nation to another of National or Legislative rights or powers can be accomplished so as to make it binding on the transferred Nation unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the acknowledged government and for their future peace and security, that the people of the transferred nationality have been called on to vote *for* or *against* the transfer, and that the question of *transfer* has gone through the form of casting the popular vote *for* and *against* the measure, and that in case of refusal or omission to attach this imperative qualification to the change, the transfer is *null* and *void*, and the transferred parties are fully clothed with belligerent rights for the arrest of the transfer, or the restoration of their original condition, regardless of the time which may have elapsed, before they have the military ability to place themselves in a belligerent position."

And by which it will be seen that this law of nations com-